A grieuous burthen was thy birth to me,
Tetchy and waiward was thy infancy,
Thy schoole-daies frightfull, desperate, wild and furious;
Thy age confirmd, proude, subtile, bloody trecherous,
What comfortable houre canst thou name,
That euer graced me in thy company?
Kin. Faith none but *Humphreys* houre, that cald your
To breakefast once forth of my company? (Grace
If it be so grieious in your sight,
Let me march on, and not offend you grace.
Dut. O heare me speake, for I shall neuer see thee more.
Kin. Come, come, you are too bitter.
Dut. Eyther thou wilt die by Gods iust ordinance
Ere from this warre thou turne a conquerour
Or I with griefe and extreame age shall perish,
And neuer looke vpon thy face againe:
Therefore take with thee my most heauy curse,
Which in the day of battell tire thee more
Then all the compleat armour that thou wearst
My prayers on the aduerse party fight,
And there the little soules of *Edwards* children
Whisper the spirits of thine enemies,
And promise them successe in victory,
Bloody thou art, and bloody will be thy end,
Shame serues thy life, and doth thy death attend. *Exit.*
Qu. Though far more cause, yet much lesse spirit to curse
Abides in me, I say amen to all.
Kin. Stay Maddam, I must speake a word with you.
Qu. I haue no more sonnes of the royall blood,
For thee to murther, for my daughters, *Richard*
They shall be praying Nunnes, not weeping Queenes,
And therefore leuell not to hit their liues,
Kin. You haue a daughter cald *Elizabeth*,
Vertuous and faire, royall and gratious.
Qu. And must she die for this? O let her liue,
And ile corrupt her manners, staine her beauty,
Slander my selfe, as false to *Edwards* bed,
Throw ouer her the vaile of infamy,
So she may liue vnscard from bleeding slaughter

I will

I will confesse she was not *Ed*
Kin. Wrong not her birth, s
Qu. To saue her life, ile say s
Kin. Her life is onely safest i
Qu. And only in that safety c
Kin. Loe at their births good
Qu. No to their liues bad frie
Kin. All vnauoyded is the d
Qu. True when auoyded gr
My babes were destind to a fa
If grace had blest thee with a f
Kin. Maddam, so thriue I in m
As I intend more good to you
Then euer you and yours were
Qu What good is couered w
To be discouered that can do
Kin. The aduancement of yo
Qu. Vp to some scaffold, the
Kin. No, to the dignity, and h
The height imperiall type of t
Qu. Flatter my sorrows wit
Tell me what state, what dign
Canst thou demise to any chil
Kin. Euen all I haue, yea and
Will I endow a child of thine,
So in the Lethe of thy angry
Thou drownd the sad rememb
Which thou supposest I haue d
Qu. Be briefe, least that the
Last longer telling then thy k
Kin. Then know that from my
Qu. My daughters mother t
Kin. What do you thinke?
Qu. That thou dost loue m
So from thy soule didst thou
And from my hearts loue, I t
Kin Be not so hasty to conf
I meane that with my soule I
And meane to make her Qu

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE *Richard III* (STC 22321) LONDON, 1634 UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH (JA 37